

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, April 5, 2007

CONTACT: Heidi Mohlman Tringe, Communications Director

Vermont Agency of Human Services

(802) 241-2222 or heidi.tringe@state.vt.us

Office of Vermont Health Access Selects APS Healthcare, Inc. as Vendor to Administer Medicaid Chronic Care Management Programs

Waterbury, Vt. - Governor Jim Douglas and Agency of Human Services (AHS) Secretary Cynthia LaWare announce today that the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) has selected APS Healthcare, Inc. as the vendor to administer its Chronic Care Management Program (CCMP), pending the successful outcome of contract negotiations. The state has entered into contract negotiations with APS and the final contract is anticipated to be completed in the next 30-45 days.

As part of Act 191, Vermont's landmark healthcare legislation, the OVHA was charged with developing a Chronic Care Management Program (CCMP) in collaboration with the Vermont Blueprint for Health. The Blueprint is Vermont's initiative for advancing innovative solutions and providing support to help doctors and patients effectively manage chronic disease and to help slow the growth in health care costs. "The OVHA CCMP will give us the unique opportunity to focus on a model intended to improve health outcomes and measure and evaluate its ability to reduce costs over time," Douglas reports.

Chronic conditions are the leading cause of illness, disability and death in the United States. Seven out of every 10 Americans who die each year, die of a chronic disease. Over 50% of all adult Vermonters have one or more chronic conditions and caring for people with chronic conditions consumes 70% of the \$3.3 billion Vermont spends each year on health care. And yet, most chronic diseases can be prevented. By improving both consumer self-care and proactive care management, the rapid increase in health care costs can be slowed, resulting in significant savings.

APS will collaborate with the OVHA, and healthcare and social service providers throughout Vermont to advance evidence-based practice, help Medicaid beneficiaries self-manage their chronic health conditions, and find opportunities for healthcare system improvements. APS' responsibilities will include the administration of health risk assessments and the delivery of intervention services. The contract between the OVHA and APS is for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

APS Healthcare Inc., headquartered in Silver Spring, Md., is a privately held specialty healthcare company. Founded in 1992, APS and its 1,200 employees provide a variety of healthcare solutions to more than 20 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico including more than 30 percent of the nation's Medicaid population through nearly 40 programs in more than 15 states.

###